

5 leaders expected in Fez Sunday

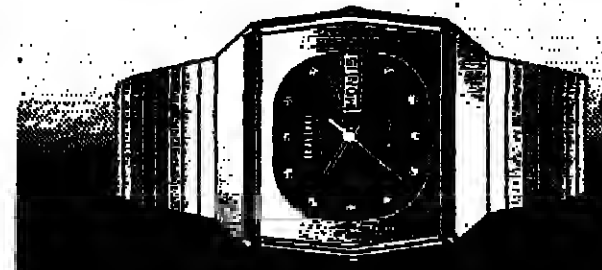
RABAT (R) — Five Arab heads of state are expected in the Moroccan city of Fez on Sunday to attend an Arab summit conference due to start the next day, the Moroccan news agency reported Friday. They are His Majesty King Hussein, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani of Qatar, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain and President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti, the agency said. The president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, who arrived in Morocco Thursday, will also attend the summit, it added. The conference will be a resumed session of the 12th Arab summit, which was suspended a few hours after it opened in Fez last November because of disagreements over Arab strategy towards Israel.

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Weinberger in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger arrived Friday from Israel on a two-day visit and was expected to hear Egypt's reaction to President Reagan's proposals for a Middle East settlement. Officials said foreign ministry experts worked until the early hours analysing the U.S. plan which calls for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan. Mr. Weinberger, on a fact-finding tour of the Middle East, is due to hold talks with President Hosni Mubarak Saturday.

Nixon in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Former U.S. President Richard Nixon and Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki met Friday and discussed China, the Middle East and the Soviet Union. Foreign Ministry sources said, Mr. Nixon arrived Thursday on his way to China, which Mr. Suzuki himself plans to visit later this month to commemorate the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Peking in 1972.

Qadhafi criticises United Nations

LONDON (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has called on smaller countries to quit the United Nations while it "is being used for the benefit of America and Israel." In a speech Thursday night marking the 15th anniversary of the Libyan revolution, he said the United States was using its veto power in the U.N. Security Council "as a whip...in the interest of the Israelis," the Libyan news agency JANA reported.

Burg attacks U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Yusef Burg, Israel's interior minister and its chief negotiator in the Camp David talks, said Friday that the United States was no longer an honest broker between his country and Arabs. Referring to President Reagan's plan for a Middle East settlement, he said: "I believe that America changed its position. It is no longer an honest broker."

Turkish diplomat's body flown to Ankara

OTTAWA (R) — The body of Col. Atilla Altikar, the Turkish military attaché slain by suspected Armenian extremists, was flown home to Ankara aboard a Canadian military aircraft Thursday night for a military funeral. Canadian Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne joined Col. Altikar's widow at the airport to pay tribute to the colonel, the first diplomat ever murdered in Ottawa. He was killed last Friday.

Top Italian policeman shot dead in Palermo

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Gunmen murdered Italy's top anti-terrorist policeman, Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, and his wife on Friday, police said. The attackers opened fire as the general and his wife were driving through the centre of Palermo. Several of his escort were also apparently hit. Gen. Dalla Chiesa, who married only recently, was Italy's leading police officer in the fight against urban guerrilla violence and the Mafia. Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini sent him to Palermo early this year as prefect (local government official) on a special mission to fight Mafia gangs running a multi-million dollar heroin racket to the United States.

Danish cabinet quits

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's eight-month-old Social Democratic minority government resigned Friday and Queen Margrethe asked conservative leader Poul Schluter to try and form a coalition to replace it. Veteran Danish Conservative Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen handed in his administration's resignation after failing to get broad parliamentary support for a controversial economic crisis package.

Yemeni youths cite life of misery in Israeli captivity

By Samira Kavar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two 17-year old young fighters from the Yemen Arab Republic, captured by invading Israeli forces in southern Lebanon, were handed over via the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) on Thursday. They were transported by an ICRC ambulance to the King Hussein Bridge and handed over to the Jordanian Red Crescent. After spending five hours with the Jordanian Public Security, they were handed over to the custody of Yemeni Ambassador Ali Abdullah Abu Luhoom, who was at the King Hussein Bridge on Thursday afternoon to welcome them.

One of the fighters handed over, Abdullah Ahmad Sweileh, had to have his left leg amputated above the knee while in captivity due to wounds sustained from an Israeli tank missile.

He volunteered as a PLO fighter at the beginning of last winter and fought in the Tyre area when the Israelis launched their invasion against Lebanon last June.

He told the Jordan Times that four days before the beginning of the month of Ramadan, he was wounded and taken captive by the Israelis with four other Palestinian fighters. The bone of his left leg had been destroyed, but the Israelis left him without an operation for "one month and twenty days." They then handed him over to the ICRC, and he underwent an amputation operation at the hospital belonging to the U.N. forces in Naqoura. The first amputation was unsuccessful, and he underwent a second amputation. He suffers terrible pain and lives on pain-killers. Officials of the North Yemeni embassy in Amman told the Jordan Times that he is unaware of the full seriousness of his medical situation. They say that medical examinations reveal that his amputated stump has become cancerous and they hope that he will be allowed into the Hussein Medical Centre for treatment.

They point out that the Hussein Medical Centre has more advanced facilities than those available in San'a and that North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has said that all North Yemeni PLO fighters will be treated as wounded of the North Yemeni revolution.

Abdullah was a construction worker before he joined the PLO. He said that he had volunteered "to carry out his pan-Arab and national duty, to fight in the name of God for the restoration of usurped Arab lands."

The second PLO fighter released through the ICRC last Thursday is Abed Abdul Malik Hussein Al Maqishi. He was stationed at a PLO military base near Tyre when the Israelis launched their invasion against Lebanon. The first day, he and his comrades were shelled by rockets. Then followed an Israeli landing by sea and air coupled by the advance of mechanised land forces. He and his comrades fought the Israelis with their light weapons and mobility.

Although his own ordeal is over, he recalls that many of his fellow-prisoners face the risk of death in captivity. The medical needs of prisoners are deliberately neglected by the Israeli captors, and relief only comes after great pain is endured. This, he believes, is yet another form of torture. He pointed out that he was severely beaten even when his captors were not interrogating him.

He remained in prison for another 18 days, following which he was transported to a new prisoners' camp in Ansar. He cannot recall how long he remained there. A Lebanese man had been assigned by the Israelis to beat all prisoners with a hose, and he got his share of beatings. The food was barely enough for survival. Prisoners were classified according to their "dangerousness" and age. The less "dangerous" and younger volunteers seemed to have a better chance of early release. Finally, he was handed over to the ICRC, and handed over to the Jordanian Red Crescent last Thursday.

Along with many other Palestinian fighters, he was then taken by bus, bound and blindfolded to a prison inside Israel. On the bus, he and his fellow-prisoners were beaten and forced to shout "May the Arab Nation from the Gulf to the ocean fall. Long live Begin."

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The number of North Yemeni PLO volunteers is something in the neighbourhood of 6,000. No less than 450 of them were captured by the Israelis according to North Yemeni embassy sources.

At the beginning of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh had called on both North Yemeni civilians and military personnel to volunteer in the fight against the invasion. The number of Yemeni volunteers killed is still unknown. Abed Abdul Malik himself saw the corpses of seven compatriots, three of them without their heads.

by Palestinian forces until they were evacuated from Lebanon. An Israeli army spokesman in east Beirut said Israeli forces were clearing mines and removing obstacles in the area, a semi-built-up district north of Beirut airport where heavy fighting took place this summer between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The Israeli spokesman said the mine-clearing operations were similar to those being conducted by Lebanese and international forces in other sectors and were part of the Palestinian evacuation plan.

Witnesses reported bearing several explosions which appeared to come from mines being detonated. The incidents were causing agitation among the Lebanese leftist militias left behind on the front lines when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) departed.

Jordan to consult Arabs, PLO on 'courageous' Reagan plan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jordan's ambassador to the United States said Friday Jordan would consult with Arab countries and the Palestinians on President Reagan's Middle East peace plan which he described as "very courageous."

"The initiative is really something that we feel is positive. Jordan is looking at it very positively and consulting with other Arab countries and the Palestinians," said Ambassador Abdul Hadi Majali in an interview on the ABC Good Morning America television programme.

Israel has already rejected Mr. Reagan's proposal for an immediate freeze on new or expanded settlements in Israeli-occupied territories and an ultimate settlement giving Palestinians their self-government in association with Jordan.

Asked about Mr. Reagan's rejection of an outright Palestinian state on Israel's borders, Mr. Majali said "perhaps the most important thing now, is that the territories could be given back to Arab sovereignty."

In Amman, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday that the Jordanian government was studying the principles and proposals included in President Reagan's

conference in Morocco on Monday.

Favourable reactions also came from Tunisia and Morocco. One senior government official in the Gulf who declined to be named said Mr. Reagan's proposals could signal a shift in U.S. policies and would be discussed at the Arab summit.

Israel rejected the proposals, saying they departed from the 1978 Camp David agreements it signed with the United States and Egypt.

The PLO has yet to react to the plan. A senior PLO official said he was encouraged by U.S. opposition to the establishment of Jewish settlements in the two territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Tunis Friday from Athens. The Tunisian news agency said PLO leaders would discuss the plan before the summit, which comes three months after Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

State-run Damascus Radio rejected the Reagan proposal, saying that no initiative based on the Camp David accords could bring peace to the Middle East.

Arab states condemned the accords which led to the signing of a treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji

Caid Essebsi described the plan as an improvement over previous U.S. positions, but said it was up to the PLO to say whether it was acceptable.

Moroccan Minister of State Ahmad Alaoui said the plan had considerable political and psychological significance.

"One can no longer speak of unconditional U.S. support for Israel and this we register with satisfaction," he wrote in the pro-government daily Maroc Soir.

The two Arabic dailies published Friday in Jordan, Al Ra'i and Al Dstour, described Mr. Reagan's initiative as a move in the right direction which deserved to be studied by the Arabs.

"The plan contained some very positive elements...this implies a more balanced U.S. policy in the area," Al Ra'i said.

But Al Dstour noted that some points of the plan fell short of all Arab demands.

The two papers said next week's Arab summit should give the Reagan plan priority. (See Jordan's Arabic press editorials on page 4)

Diplomatic sources said this reflected Jordan's interest in the plan, and its tacit approval of it.

In Syria, the pro-government newspaper Tishrin said Mr. Reagan was trying to divide up the Middle East according to the whim of the White House.

Arafat receives King's message

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem returned to Amman from Athens on Friday evening after conveying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat.

King Hussein conveyed in the letter his greetings to Mr. Arafat and praised the "heroism of the Palestinian resistance." He also expressed support of the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their land and rights.

King Hussein said in the letter he is eager to continue consultations and the exchange of views as well as continuous coordination with Mr. Arafat vis-a-vis the Arab issues which will be discussed at the Arab summit scheduled to be held in Fez, and the new developments on the Arab and international levels.

Mr. Lawzi and Mr. Qasem exchanged preliminary views with Mr. Arafat on President Reagan's new proposals to solve the Middle East problem emphasising the need for an Israeli withdrawal on the basis of U.N. Resolution 242 and on the fact that the U.S. initiative takes into full account that the problem of the Palestinian people is not a refugee problem.

PLO leader arrives in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Tunis Friday night, the Tunisian news agency reported.

The Tunisian plane which carried the Palestinian leader and dozens of his closest aides landed at Tunis-Carthage airport at 1640 GMT, it added.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived from Athens, is expected to provisionally settle down in Tunis following the withdrawal of the Palestinian forces from Beirut under a U.S.-negotiated plan.

He will chair a crucial meeting of the PLO leadership here Saturday to decide whether the movement will take part in an Arab summit due to open in Fez, Morocco, on Monday.

Tunisia's 79-year-old President Habib Bourguiba was at the airport at the head of an official welcoming party.

President Bourguiba last week greeted 1,000 PLO fighters evacuated from Beirut, of whom 500 were members of Mr. Arafat's Fateh organisation.

Other members of the PLO leadership are due to arrive Saturday from their new base in Damascus for the scheduled meeting of the central committee.

Gemayel meets Begin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel met Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on Wednesday night, a government official said Friday.

According to Israeli newspapers and state radio, they discussed future Israeli-Lebanese relations, including the possibility of a peace agreement.

The official said the two men met in the northern Israeli resort of Nahariya where Mr. Begin was on holiday. He refused to discuss details and said only that the meeting lasted four hours and continued into the early hours of Thursday morning.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Ariel Sharon were also present, the official added.

Israel reiterates rejection of new U.S. proposals

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government Friday reaffirmed its rejection of a new American peace initiative for the Middle East, but there were clear signs that Israeli public opinion was divided on the issue.

At the same time, U.S. and Israeli officials were evidently anxious to prevent the controversy from damaging seriously the close ties between the two countries.

The strongest support for President Reagan's surprise move came from opposition Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, who said he understood that Jordan was now ready to begin peace talks on the basis of the U.S. proposals.

These included a call for Palestinian self-government on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan and a freeze on Jewish settlement in the disputed lands.

The Israeli cabinet angrily dismissed the plan Thursday on the grounds that it was a serious departure from the Camp David accords and could lead to an independent Palestinian state.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir reiterated this position Friday following talks with visiting U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger.

"There have previously been proposals not acceptable to Israel and which have finally been abandoned," he said. "We hope the same fate will befall these latest American proposals."

Mr. Weinberger described the Israeli cabinet's decision as "a first shock reaction," and told reporters he believed there were a number of people in Israel who favoured consideration of the U.S. plan.

The defence secretary, who has been touring Israel's arms industries during a two-day visit, left later for Egypt after a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon.

Support for his view came from Mr. Peres, whose Labour Party welcomed Mr. Reagan's proposals as a positive move and said they represented a fair basis for discussion.

The opposition leader told a press conference that the plan had some constructive elements that should be adopted and some controversial items that should be discussed.

Cautious optimism in Jordan over new American proposals

By Samira Kavar, Riyadh Ahmad and Afifah Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Public reaction in Jordan to the proposals for a Middle East peace plan outlined by President Reagan on Thursday morning is cautiously optimistic, but tinged with restraint and even suspicion in some cases.

The Jordan Times interviewed several Jordanian citizens, some of Palestinian origin, to find out their reactions to President Reagan's speech (Text on page 2).

Mr. Roubi Al Khatib, the Arab mayor of Jerusalem who was deported by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1968, said that he saw "nothing new in Reagan's proposals, save Reagan's admission that the Palestine cause is more than just a refugee problem."

Mr. Khatib also saw the American president's reference to the role that could be played by Jordan as a new element in the U.S. approach towards a solution to the Palestinian problem and expressed every respect for Jordan's pan-Arab and Islamic stands.

But Mr. Khatib expressed overall scepticism regarding the bulk of the U.S. proposals announced by President Reagan because he views them as a "reiteration of the Camp David accords which the Palestinians and the Arabs rejected, except for Egypt."

Mr. Khatib expressed the view that the new American peace plan undermines the Palestine cause and limits it to mere parts of Palestine, namely the West Bank and Gaza. More importantly, Mr. Khatib said, this plan wrests Jerusalem "the living heart of Palestine" from the Palestine cause.

Another main objection to the Reagan initiative, according to Mr. Khatib, is that it clearly and strongly rules out the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. "This contradicts the belief in the freedom of all peoples which America professes to hold," he said.

Moreover, he pointed out, Reagan's proposals completely ignore the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which has already been recognised by 120 countries that are members of the U.N., as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PLO, he added, had been successful through its efforts and sacrifices in making the whole world consider the Palestine cause as the world's first problem.

"Even President Reagan himself has now admitted that it is more than a refugee problem."

A 70-year old Haifa-born lawyer, who asked not to be identified, also expressed reservations towards the plan announced by President Reagan.

He said that the plan fell short of both U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and the Camp David accords for several reasons. First, he pointed out, Reagan's plan implicitly violated a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 because the plan pointed out that prior to 1967, Israeli borders were no more than 10 miles wide and not easily defensible, and that America would not agree to a return to such a situation.

The lawyer, who has been residing in Amman since 1962, pointed out that by contrast, U.N. Resolution 242 clearly denies the right of any state to retain territories occupied by force. He suggested that if Israel wishes to widen its border in the Tulkarem-Natanya area for defence purposes, it should give equal areas to the Palestinians on a quid pro quo basis.

Second, he objected to Mr. Reagan's statement that Jerusalem should remain undivided. He pointed out that East Jerusalem is part of the territories occupied in 1967. As such, it is not negotiable and should be returned to Arab sovereignty. The status of the holy places can then be negotiated, according to the Palestinian lawyer.

"Too early to comment"

A young Jordanian woman of Palestinian parentage, who also did not wish to be identified, said that it was still too early to comment on the proposals put forward by the American president because the specifics of this plan have still not been revealed.

She said that the president's call for a freeze on Israeli settlements was "a basically good idea." She said that the plan made by Reagan deserved further careful study but not at the expense of Arab dignity. The plan was good because "the Arab World is unable to fight Israel at present." She expressed the hope that the detailed plan would provide for the return of Palestinian refugees who left their homes in 1967 and 1948.

"Reality of the problem"

Mr. Nahil Sawalha, director of the Haya Arts Centre, said that the speech made by President Reagan indicated that for the first time, the Americans seem to be aware of the reality of the Middle

East problem. Previous extreme American stands had left the Arabs "boiling with anger," he said. Americans had been posing as guardians of humane principles, while their attitudes towards the Arabs had demonstrated the opposite, he said. But a new American awareness that the Arabs would not stand for this coupled with the international experience of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz led to the emergence of a new American awareness of Arab aspirations.

National Consultative Council (NCC) member Abdul Wahab Al Majali, who also heads the NCC Foreign Relations Committee, said the new American proposals contained "several positive aspects."

President Reagan's initiative demonstrated for the first time that America is serious in its desire to resolve the Middle East problem in spite of the intransigent Israeli stand and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, according to Mr. Majali. He expressed the view that the initiative must not be neglected and must be carefully studied by the Jordanian government in coordination with the PLO in preparation for discussing it at the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Fez, Morocco. He hoped that the Arab Nation would be able to take a unified and positive stand over the new American plan at the Fez summit conference.

Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber, Labour Ministry under-secretary said the U.S. initiative is an encouraging step taken by President Reagan and his administration, especially when compared with the provisions of the Camp David accords.

Mr. Malek Sbarif, a computer salesman, said Mr. Reagan's plan offers more than what has been offered before as far as U.S. governments are concerned. "But there are certain parts which are open to debate and certainly need clarification, such as the state of Jerusalem. As a Jordanian citizen, however, I am with the proposed association of the West Bank and Jordan," he added.

But nine American who lives and works in Jordan commented that "America is merely making these statements to appease its Arab friends."

"Even if America does have good intentions in the Middle East, Israel will do its utmost to foil their success," he said. As for Reagan's statement opposing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the American, who asked that his name be withheld, described it as ignorant.

MIDDLE EAST

Reagan: 'The time had come for a new American policy'

Following is the official text of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's address to Americans on Sept. 1, as released in Amman by the American embassy.

Today has been a day that should make all of us proud. It marked the end of the successful evacuation of the PLO from Beirut, Lebanon. This peaceful step could never have been taken without the good offices of the United States and, especially, the truly heroic work of a great American diplomat Philip Habib. Thanks to his efforts, I am happy to announce that the U.S. marine contingent helping to supervise the evacuation has accomplished its mission.

Our young men should be out of Lebanon within two weeks. They, too, have served the cause of peace with distinction and we can all be very proud of them.

But the situation in Lebanon is only part of the overall problem of the conflict in the Middle East. So, over the past two weeks, while events in Beirut dominated the front page, America was engaged in a quiet behind-the-scenes effort

to lay the groundwork for a broader peace in the region. For once, there were no premature leaks as U.S. diplomatic missions travelled to Mideast capitals and I met here at home with a wide range of experts to map out an American peace initiative for the long-suffering peoples of the Middle East, Arab and Israeli alike.

It seemed to me that, with the agreement in Lebanon, we had an opportunity for a more far-reaching peace effort in the region—and I was determined to seize that moment. In the words of the scripture, the time had come to "follow after the things which make for peace."

Tonight, I want to report to you on the steps we have taken, and the prospects that can open up for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

America has long been committed to bringing peace to this troubled region. For more than a

generation, successive U.S. administrations have endeavored to develop a fair and workable process that could lead to a true and lasting Arab-Israeli peace. Our involvement in the search for Mideast peace is not a matter of preference, it is a moral imperative. The strategic importance of the region to the U.S. is well known.

But our policy is motivated by more than strategic interests. We also have an irreversible commitment to the survival and territorial integrity of friendly states. Nor can we ignore the fact that the well-being of much of the world's economy is tied to stability in the strife-torn Middle East. Finally, our traditional humanitarian concerns dictate a continuing effort to peacefully resolve conflicts.

Framework for Mideast

When our administration assumed office in January 1981, I decided that the general framework for our Middle East policy should follow the broad guidelines laid down by my predecessors.

There were two basic issues we had to address. First, there was the strategic threat to the region posed by the Soviet Union and its surrogates, best demonstrated by the brutal war in Afghanistan; and, second, the peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

With regard to the Soviet threat, we have strengthened our efforts to develop with our friends and allies a joint policy to deter the Soviets and their surrogates from further expansion in the region, and if necessary, to defend against it. With respect to the Arab-Israeli conflict, we have embraced the Camp David framework as the only way to proceed. We have also recognized, however, that solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, in and of itself, cannot assure peace throughout a region as vast and troubled as the Middle East.

Our first objective under the Camp David process was to ensure the successful fulfillment of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. This was achieved with the peaceful return of the Sinai to Egypt in April 1982. To accomplish this, we worked hard with our Egyptian and Israeli friends, and eventually with other friendly countries, to create the multinational force which now operates in the Sinai.

Throughout this period of difficult and time-consuming negotiations, we never lost sight of the next step of Camp David; autonomy talks to pave the way for permitting the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights. However, owing to the tragic assassination of President Sadat and other crises in the area, it was not until January 1982 that we were able to make a major effort to renew these talks. Secretary of State Haig and Ambassador Fairbanks made three visits to Israel and Egypt this year to pursue the autonomy talks. Considerable progress was made in developing the basic outline of an American approach which was to be presented to Egypt and Israel after April.

The successful completion of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and the courage shown on this occasion by Prime Minister Begin and President Mubarak in living up to their agreements convinced me the time had come for a new American policy to try to bridge the remaining differences between Egypt and Israel on the autonomy process. So, in May, I called for specific measures and a timetable for consultations with the governments of Egypt and Israel on the next steps in the peace process. However, before this effort could be launched, the conflict in Lebanon preempted our efforts. The autonomy talks were basically put on hold while we sought to untangle the parties in Lebanon and still the guns of war.

New opportunity

The Lebanon war, tragic as it was, has left us with a new opportunity for Middle East peace. We must seize it now and bring peace to this troubled area so vital to world stability while there is still time. It was with this strong conviction that over a month ago,

before the present negotiations in Beirut had been completed, I directed Secretary of State Shultz to again review our policy and to consult a wide range of outstanding Americans on the best ways to strengthen chances for peace in the Middle East. We have consulted with many of the officials who were historically involved in the process, with members of the Congress, and with individuals from the private sector, and I have held extensive consultations with my own advisors on the principles I will outline to you tonight.

The evacuation of the PLO from Beirut is now complete. And we can now help the Lebanese to rebuild their war-torn country. We owe it to ourselves, and to posterity, to move quickly to build upon this achievement. A stable and revived Lebanon is essential to all our hopes for peace in the region. The people of Lebanon deserve the best efforts of the international community to turn the nightmares of the past several years into a new dawn of hope.

But the opportunities for peace in the Middle East do not begin and end in Lebanon. As we help Lebanon rebuild, we must also move to resolve the root causes of conflict between Arabs and Israelis.

The war in Lebanon has demonstrated many things, but two consequences are key to the peace process:

First, the military losses of the PLO have not diminished the yearning of the Palestinian people for a just solution of their claims; and second, while Israel's military successes in Lebanon have demonstrated that its armed forces are second to none in the region, they alone cannot bring just and lasting peace to Israel and her neighbors.

The question now is how to reconcile Israel's legitimate security concerns with the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. And that answer can only come at the negotiating table. Each party must recognize that the outcome must be acceptable to all and that true peace will require compromises by all.

So, tonight I am calling for a fresh start. This is the moment for all those directly concerned to get involved—or lend their support—to a workable basis for peace. The Camp David agreement remains the foundation of our policy. Its language provides all parties with the way they need for successful negotiations.

I call on Israel to make clear that the security for which the Palestinians can only be achieved through genuine peace, a peace requiring magnanimity, vision and courage.

I call on the Palestinian people to recognize that their own political aspirations are inextricably bound to recognition of Israel's right to a secure future. And I call on the Arab states to accept the reality of Israel—and the reality that peace and justice are to be gained only through hard, fair, direct negotiation.

U.S. responsibility

In making these calls upon others,

I recognize that the United States has a special responsibility. No other nation is in a position to deal with the key parties to the conflict on the basis of trust and reliability.

The time has come for a new realism on the part of all the peoples of the Middle East. The state of Israel is an accomplished fact; it deserves unchallenged legitimacy within the community of nations. But Israel's legitimacy has thus far been recognized by too few countries, and has been denied by every Arab state except Egypt. Israel exists; it has a right to exist in peace behind secure and defensible borders, and it has a right to demand of its neighbors that they recognize those facts.

The war in Lebanon has demonstrated another reality in the region. The departure of the Palestinians from Beirut dramatizes more than ever the homelessness of the Palestinian people. Palestinians feel strongly that their cause is more than a question of refugees. I agree. The Camp David agreement recognized that fact when it spoke of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just requirements. For peace to endure, it must involve all those who have been most deeply affected by the conflict. Only through broader participation in the peace process

most immediately by Jordan and by the Palestinians—will Israel be able to rest confident in the knowledge that its security and integrity will be respected by its neighbors. Only through the process of negotiation can all the nations of the Middle East achieve a secure peace.

These then are our general goals. What are the specific American positions, and why are we taking them?

In the Camp David talks thus far, both Israel and Egypt have felt free to express openly their views as to what the outcome should be. Understandably, their views have differed on many points.

The United States has thus far sought to play the role of mediator; we have avoided public comment on the key issues. We have always recognized—and continue to recognize—that only the voluntary agreement of those parties most directly involved in the conflict can provide an enduring solution. But it has become evident to me that some clearer sense of America's position on the key issues is necessary to encourage wider support for the peace process.

First, as outlined in the Camp David accords, there must be a period of time during which the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza will have full autonomy over their own affairs. Due consideration must be given to the principle of self-government by the inhabitants of the territories and to the legitimate security concerns of the parties involved.

The purpose of the 5-year period of transition which would begin after free elections for a self-governing Palestinian authority is to prove to the Palestinians that they can run their own affairs, and that such Palestinian autonomy poses no threat to Israel's security.

The United States will not support the use of any additional land for the purpose of settlements during the transition period. Indeed, the immediate adoption of a settlement freeze by Israel, more than any other action, could create the confidence needed for wider participation in these talks. Further settlement activity is in no way necessary for the security of Israel and only diminishes the confidence of the Arabs that a final outcome can be freely and fairly negotiated.

Authority transfer

I want to make the American position clearly understood: the purpose of this transition period is the peaceful and orderly transfer of domestic authority from Israel to the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, such a transfer must not interfere with Israel's security requirements.

Beyond the transition period, as we look to the future of the West Bank and Gaza, it is clear to me that peace cannot be achieved by the formation of an independent Palestinian state in those territories. Nor is it achievable on the basis of Israeli sovereignty or permanent control over the West Bank and Gaza.

So the United States will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, and we will not support annexation or permanent control by Israel.

There is, however, another way to peace. The final status of these lands must, of course, be reached through the give-and-take of negotiations. But it is the firm view of the United States that self-government by the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan offers the best chance for a durable, just and lasting peace.

We base our approach squarely on the principle that the Arab-Israeli conflict should be resolved through negotiations involving an exchange of territory for peace. This exchange is enshrined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which is, in turn, incorporated in all its parts in the Camp David agreements. U.N. Resolution 242 remains wholly valid as the foundation stone of America's Middle East peace effort.

It is the United States' position that—in return for peace—the withdrawal provision of Resolution 242 applies to all fronts, including the West Bank and Gaza.

When the border is negotiated between Jordan and Israel, our view on the extent to which Israel should be asked to give up territory will be heavily affected by the extent of true peace and normalisation and the security arrangements offered in return.

Finally, we remain convinced that Jerusalem must remain undivided, but its final status should be decided through negotiations.

In the course of the negotiations to come, the United States will support positions that seem to us fair and reasonable compromises, and likely to promote a sound agreement. We will

also put forward our own detailed proposals when we believe they can be helpful. And, make no mistake, the United States will oppose any proposal—from any party and at any point in the negotiating process—that threatens the security of Israel. America's commitment to the security of Israel is ironclad. And I might add, so is mine.

Arab-Israeli peace

During the past few days, our ambassadors in Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia have presented to their host governments the proposals in full detail that I have outlined here tonight.

I am convinced that these proposals can bring justice, bring security, and bring durability to an Arab-Israeli peace.

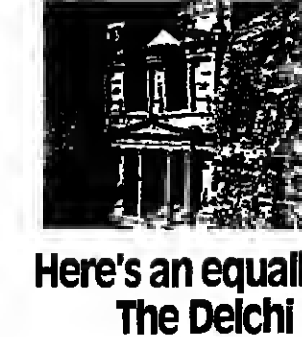
The United States will stand by these principles with total dedication. They are fully consistent with Israel's security requirements and the aspirations of the Palestinians. We will work hard to broaden participation at the peace table as envisaged by the Camp David accords. And I fervently hope that the Palestinians and Jordan, with the support of their Arab colleagues, will accept this opportunity.

Tragic turmoil in the Middle East runs back to the dawn of history. In our modern day, conflict after conflict has taken its toll there. In an age of nuclear challenge and economic interdependence, such conflicts are a threat to all the people of the world, not just the Middle East itself. It is time for us all—in the Middle East and around the world—to call a halt to conflict, hatred and prejudice; it is time for us all to launch a common effort for reconstruction, peace and progress.


It has often been said—and regrettably too often been true—that the story of the search for peace and justice in the Middle East is a tragedy of opportunities missed. In the aftermath of the settlement in Lebanon we now face an opportunity for a broader peace. This time we must not let it slip from our grasp. We must look beyond the difficulties and obstacles of the present and move with fairness and resolve toward a brighter future. We owe it to ourselves—and to posterity—to do no less. For if we miss this chance to make a fresh start, we may look back on this moment from some later vantage point and realize how much that failure cost us all.

These, then, are the principles upon which American policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict will be based. I have made a personal commitment to see that they are carried out, and God willing, that they will come to be seen by all reasonable, compassionate people as fair, achievable, and in the interests of all who wish to see peace in the Middle East.

Tonight, on the eve of what may be a dawning of a new hope for the people of the troubled Middle East—and for all the world's people who dream of a just and peaceful future—I ask you, my fellow Americans, for your support and your prayers in this great undertaking.



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Focus on a Jordanian shipping company

* Six general cargo vessels are operating in T. Gargour and Fils shipping line.

* The large family unit is using computers in its daily business.

T. Gargour and Fils was established in 1928, and has since been involved in shipping, trading industry, and finance. The Jordanian shipping company started in 1949 and under the direction of its founders, welcomed one of the first few vessels to call the Aqaba.

Our first vessel, the Ms. Albion, called at Aqaba on Dec. 4, 1953 and carried 9,900 tons of wheat flour sent by the U.N. as aid to the refugees.

The first liner service

for T. Gargour and Fils, "Hansa Line", started in 1953, and maintained 502 services before it went into liquidation last year.

Between 1953 and 1964 T. Gargour and Fils succeeded in linking Aqaba with Europe, the Far East and the United States, and are now agents of lines such as Hapag Lloyd, Lloyd Triestino, Mitsui O.S.K., Sudan Line, Farrel (A.E.L.), Red Sea Line, and others.

T. Gargour and Fils

also established their own shipping line, which now comprises of six general cargo vessels.

The Aqaba operations are handled by a 60-member staff, and there are 30 employees at the Amman headquarters.

Mr. Ardekani, the shipping manager, sums up the company policy:

"We consider our company as one large family unit, and I believe this is why we can give very good service."

Due to the high level of sophistication in the shipping industry, and trusting in a bright future, T. Gargour and Fils are using computers in their daily business, and aim at full computerisation by the end of 1983.

Jordan rejects UNRWA's measures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government has rejected the measure taken by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), suspending the distribution of foodstuffs to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan, on the pretext of transferring them to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

A responsible source at the occupied territories affairs ministry told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that such a measure is unacceptable, particularly that the quantities of foodstuffs distributed to the refugees are very meagre as a result of the successive reductions of these quantities.

The source said that helping the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon at the expense of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan is a peculiar measure by the UNRWA management, because it is the Zionist aggressors who bear the responsibility for the Lebanon tragedy, and the international community should play a bigger role in resolving this humanitarian problem.

Hussein congratulates Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable to the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, congratulating him on the anniversary of the independence of his country.

King Hussein wished Sheikh Khalifa success in serving the Arab nation and its just causes, and progress and prosperity for the Qatari people.

Soviet delegation leaves Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Soviet vocational delegation left Amman on Thursday at the end of a week-long visit to Jordan, during which it had talks with the officials of the vocational training institute, the education ministry and the national planning council, on the prospects of cooperation in the field of vocational training.

Agreement was reached during the visit to establish two vocational training centres in the Jordan Valley and Al Hasa or Al Qatranah in the southern part of the country with the Soviet Union's help. Now that the Hikma vocational training centre in Irbid has been fully equipped, and training in it will begin on Oct. 1. The Hikma centre was also established with the Soviet Union's help.

King condoles Rida family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has deputed Royal Court Secretary General Yousef Bouran to participate in the funeral procession of the late Mohammad Ali Rida and to convey His Majesty's condolences to the Rida family.

Digging of artesian wells completed

IRBID (Petra) — The Suf municipality in Irbid governorate has completed the digging of an artesian well with a productive capacity of 35 cubic metres per hour at a cost of JD 35,000.

On the other hand, the municipality has begun asphaltting 25,000 square metres of streets in the various parts of town. The cost of the project, which will be completed in the next two months, is estimated at JD 25,000.

Jordan gets scholarship from institute for disabled

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has obtained one of the seven scholarships allocated for the Arab member states in the training institute for the disabled which is affiliated with the Tunis-based Arab League for Education, Culture and Science Organisation (ALESCO).

The duration of study at the said institute is two years after the secondary school. Students at the ins-

titute receive theoretical and practical lessons qualifying them to teach at institutes for the disabled according to the most modern methods used.

The scholarships are part of the ALESCO programme to help Arab students who cannot continue their higher education, particularly in the fields related to the objectives of the ALESCO and the field of its activities.

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UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN FACULTY OF ARTS THE LANGUAGE CENTRE

COURSES IN ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan will offer courses in Modern Standard Arabic for members of the foreign community in Amman. The courses will start on Sept. 18, 1982 and will last for 16 weeks. Classes will meet three days a week from 5:30 to 7:10 p.m. (i.e., 6 class hours per week). The course fee is JD 35.00.

Those interested should contact the Language Centre for preliminary registration as soon as possible at 843555, extension 1441.

Working hours are 8:00-1:00 and 2:00-5:00 Saturday - Wednesday.

In addition, the Centre will continue to offer its 20-hour weak courses in Arabic for speakers of other languages. The fee for these courses is JD 100.00 per semester.

Dr. Muhammad H. Ibrahim,
Director,
The Language Centre

FOR SALE & FOR RENT

(1) For sale, apartment consisting of bedroom, hall and amenities, with central heating. Location: Sweifiyeh area, 7th Circle, Jabal Amman.

(2) For rent, villa consisting of three bedrooms, hall, dining room, with central heating, large garden, garage and telephone. Location: 7th Circle, Jabal Amman.

For details, please contact Tel. 811023

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Jordan Lime & Silicate Brick Industries Company requires for employment in their factory at Abu-Nusair.

Electrical maintenance engineer: Should be qualified and experienced in maintenance of industrial plant and equipment and control panels and operating instruments.

Electrical foreman: Capable to take charge of electrical maintenance work of all factory plant during one shift.

If interested please contact personnel officer in company's main office at Jabal Al Hussein, Lydda Street, P.O. Box 3048, Amman, Tel. No. 62340.

Managing Director

FURNISHED APARTMENTS IN SHMEISANI FOR RENT

Three bedrooms, salon and dining room, kitchen, bathroom and veranda. Centrally heated.

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JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY AQABA-AMMAN 400 KV TRANSMISSION LINE TENDERS No. 25 AND 26/82

Jordan Electricity Authority announces the issuing of Amendment letter No. (3) covering clarification and modification of certain general conditions of the a/m two tenders.

Tenderers who obtained documents of these tenders are requested to collect the amendment letter from Tenders Section, Purchasing Dept. of JEA.

THE JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

400 KILOVOLT TRANSMISSION LINE BETWEEN AQABA AND AMMAN

Tenders number 25/82 and 26/82

The Jordan Electricity Authority announces the introduction of amendment number 3 to earlier conditions attached to the above mentioned tenders.

All contractors submitting bids for these tenders, please call at the tenders section at the Jordan Electricity Authority, Jabal Amman, 5th Circle in order to obtain a copy of the amendment to the tenders.

Queen Noor patronises girl volunteers graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor patronised on Thursday the graduation ceremony of the first group of voluntary training for girls held at the Salt Community College. The training was supervised by trainers from the Armed Forces general command and the Civil Defence Directorate.

The three-week training programme, in which 30 participants

took part, included basic military training, civil defence operations and first aid. The participants also made field visits to several military posts.

Social Development Minister In'am Al Mufti made a speech at the ceremony affirming the significance of voluntary service for girls and of their role in serving the country.

At the end of the ceremony, the

participants made several exercises reflecting the skills they have gained during the training programme. Queen Noor then distributed certificates and awards to the graduates.

The ceremony was also attended by His Highness Prince Talal, the Armed Forces chief of staff, the governor of Al Balqa', and a number of high-ranking officials.

JPMC ensures housing for workers

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the plan of the Phosphates Mines Company to ensure suitable housing for the workers in its mines, it has been decided to build a new housing complex at the phosphates mines sites in Al Hasa and Al Wadi Al Abyad in the south.

A company official said the project, which includes 500 housing units, will cost JD 9 million. The housing complex will include all the necessary utilities and services such as schools, kindergartens, clubs, playgrounds, and health and commercial centres.

The official added that the project will be financed by long-term loans from the Housing Bank, the Social Security Corporation, the National Planning Council and the company itself.

First edition of 'Banks in Jordan' published

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Association of Banks in Jordan (ABJ) has published the first edition of its monthly magazine "Banks in Jordan."

The magazine is a specialised journal dealing with banking activities, policies, trends and ways of improving and facilitating banking procedures, as well as raising the standard of performance of bank employees in Jordan.

The first edition was impressive in terms of contents. It included a long interview with Central Bank Governor Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi, an article by Dr.

Jawad Al Anani on the challenges facing Jordanian banks in the eighties, a book review on personnel management in banks by Dr. Tayssir Abdul Jabbar, a study on poverty and income distribution in Jordan by Dr. Jarir Dajani of Stanford University, and other articles by elite bankers in Jordan.

Dr. Abdullah Al Maliki, the magazine's responsible editor and director general of the Association of Banks in Jordan, has invited potential writers to write in the magazine, including economists, university professors and bankers.

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Consists of three bedrooms, three bathrooms, salon, living room, dining room, veranda and kitchen, fitted carpet, colour T.V., telephone and central heating. Located in Al-Yarmouk housing complex, 6th Circle.

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Jabal Amman 2nd Circle near Lebanese Embassy
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Furnished or unfurnished ground floor apartment consisting of two bedrooms, salon, two bathrooms, kitchen, washing room and garage. Centrally heated with telephone and independent entrance.

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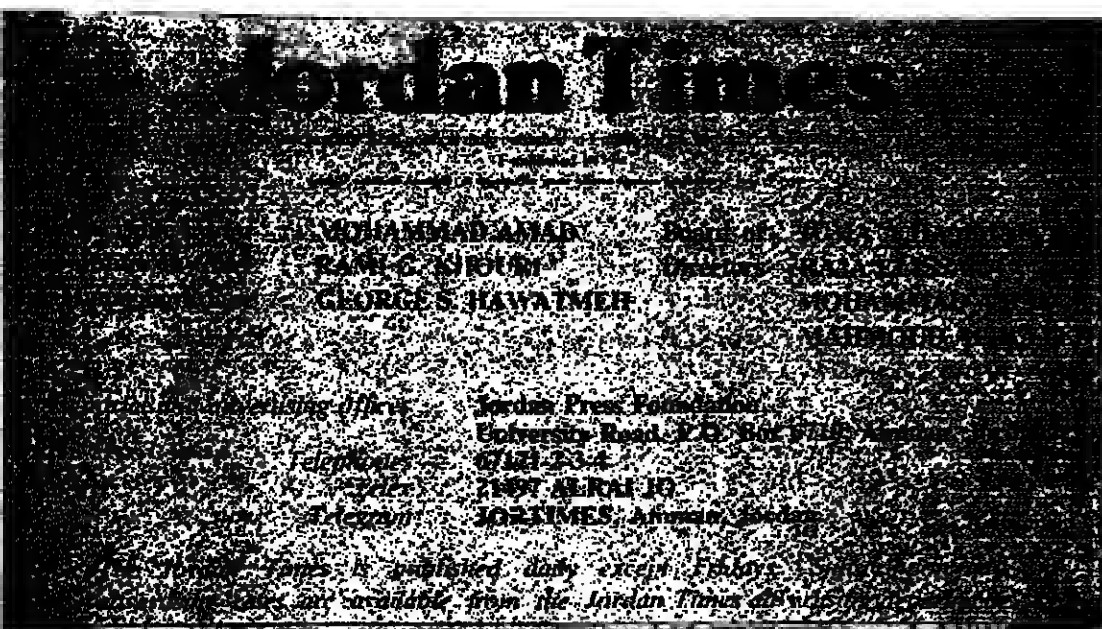
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BASHA, M-J



Mr. Reagan's expensive education

UNITED STATES President Ronald Reagan has shown that he is capable of moving from the world of intellectual rigidity and naivete to the world of reason and fairness. In so doing, he has taken a large step towards that which we have called on him and previous American presidents to do for a very long time — to reflect in official American policies the essential fairness and rationality of the American people.

The Reagan proposals for an Arab-Israeli peace contain some absolutely essential principles for a balanced settlement, while leaving some other absolutely essential questions untouched. Fair enough. This is only a proposal for a starting point for negotiations. It is only an American view. But as such, it is very valuable indeed to have the United States come out, for the first time, squarely behind the principles that the territories occupied in 1967 have to return to Arab sovereignty; that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 applies to all occupied territories, and not to some of them only; that there should be a freeze on Israeli settlements; that the homelessness of the Palestinians needs to be addressed in a context larger than just that of refugees; that Israeli militarism (or American-Israeli militarism, in the eyes of most Arabs) cannot in

itself bring about a lasting peace. The link between the new precise interpretation of 242, the Camp David framework accords and American policy in the region is a breath of fresh air in what otherwise has been an American room full of stale cigar smoke and coughing old men.

These are all positive and welcomed developments. One wonders, though: Did it really require the destruction of half of Lebanon for Mr. Reagan to come to the realisation that these principles have to be adopted by the United States? Why didn't the American government produce this initiative five or ten or fifteen years ago? It is nice to see the American president being educated, but the cost of that education in Arab lives has been very high.

Mr. Reagan and his boys have produced a bold, enticing and generally fair set of proposals. They have started on a path that is long and hard. If they continue on it, they will do themselves and all of mankind a great service. They should be encouraged to do so. Fairness is such a rare element in American policy in the Middle East that it must be nurtured, protected and stimulated. This is the immediate priority.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. initiative worthy of consideration

Undoubtedly the U.S. initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue is worthy of study and consideration, particularly that it contains the following positive points:

- The inadmissibility of the seizure of land by force.
- Recognition that the Palestinian issue is not an issue of refugees, but an issue of a homeland.
- The call to exchange territory for peace, and this means the rejection of the Israeli principle to usurp the land and gain peace at the same time.
- Rejection of the Israeli security theory based on justifying the occupation of land on the pretext of security.
- Rejection of Israel's claim that unified Jerusalem will remain its eternal capital, because the U.S. call for negotiations on the future of the city

Al Dustour: An American move in the right direction

Regardless of differing views and reactions to the proposals put forth by U.S. President Ronald Reagan in his speech to the American people on Thursday, defining his country's visualisation for resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute, these proposals constitute as a whole a clear American policy adopted for the first time in years to tackle the Middle East crisis on the basis of a set of principles and rules which the United States has overlooked for a long time.

Naturally, the U.S. plan will be studied carefully by the Arab countries before making a final judgement on it, particularly that an Arab summit will be held soon to discuss all aspects of the Palestinian issue. However, a quick look at the

means unacceptance of the Israeli claim. These positive points represent a new American trend towards an even-handed policy in the area, although this does not mean that the U.S. initiative fulfils all Arab demands.

Although Israel has reacted to the U.S. initiative with anger and rejection, the preliminary Arab reaction was balanced and objective. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which will discuss the initiative soon is undoubtedly facing a historic political test and is fully aware of its dimensions and results. Furthermore, the anticipated Arab summit in Fez, Morocco will have to shoulder the duty of adopting a unified Arab position towards the U.S. initiative based on far-sightedness and sound assessment.

plan reveals a number of positive aspects which are worthy of recording.

The American president has recognised that the PLO evacuation from Beirut has not diminished the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians to have a homeland, not as refugees but as a people who have a right to a homeland.

While Jordan has noted the positive points in the plan, it refrained from discussing the details because the Palestinian issue is a collective Arab responsibility which all the Arabs should shoulder. Since an Arab summit will be held soon, it alone is the proper body qualified to discuss the plan and give the Arab reply to it.

Beyond and after the Reagan proposals

By George S. Hawatmeh

POLITICIANS and analysts across the globe are working hard to see what the United States has finally come up with to solve the Palestine issue, once and for all. More mundane individuals will have time to sit and watch, for it may be some time before politicians, especially in the Middle East, agreed to talk among themselves about the new U.S. proposals.

So, it is true that the Reagan administration had been serious about playing a role in the Middle East and contemplating to set forth its own views, or those of America, on how the old-age conflict can be solved.

Who loves peace does not care how it is technically made. Who is responsible for formulating and urging the new, albeit old, U.S. proposals, be it Secretary of State Shultz or Defence Secretary Weinberger or Senator Percy or Dr. Kissinger or all of them, is not really the issue. More important is the fact that the United States as a superpower has taken a new initiative to move forward the peace process; and its president, Ronald Reagan, has committed himself personally and on behalf of his country to launch a campaign for peace and to see it through. The American position, regardless of technicalities but with due consideration to what the Arabs (and the world) had expected, is a bold, courageous move. Mr. Reagan and his administration deserve high marks for coming out from

their foreign policy coma behind a set of principles and interpretations to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict after a long and costly silence.

A new conflict

The politicians, Arab politicians at any rate, will no doubt work and negotiate hard to reach a common understanding of what the U.S. president has proposed. Not so with Israeli politicians who toe the Begin line. These have been quick to abort even intellectual ponderance in Israel over what their paymasters and protectors in Washington have seen as the most useful ideas to propagate the cause of peace in this turbulent area; and the Begin government has rejected out of hand all other beliefs than its own that could eventually bring tranquility and stability to the region and rid their countrymen of the mental and physical tortures which have plagued them ever since the creation of the state of Israel.

Why the Israelis have rejected President Reagan's new ideas and commitments is something that is neither difficult to understand nor easy to ignore. If the Arabs charged, under the brand new circumstances, that Israel does not want peace, the Americans might, once again, use the charge as a new excuse to criticise them. But they would not punish the Arabs this time by withdrawing their

(American) own ideas. If that happens, it would be because the Israelis, rather than anybody else, imposed another fair accomplice on the area and on their now renegade friends in Washington.

For the sake of argument, the Arabs may assume that through immense American pressures the Israelis can be made to consider Mr. Reagan's new proposals, not necessarily within days but rather within months. In the meantime, the Arabs would still be, say, hoping that they will have reached a majority consensus to negotiate with the Americans on what the U.S. president proposed on Sept. 1, 1982. Then what? The Palestine issue will have been settled?

Perhaps not; for the root causes of the problem could prove to be much more difficult to overcome than what the U.S. administration would have thought.

Incomplete set

President Reagan has rightly concluded that "the military losses of the (Palestine Liberation Organisation) PLO have not diminished the yearning of the Palestinian people for a just solution of their claims". Yet he failed to tell us what he is going to do with the PLO, which still is and will continue to be the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and leader of the Palestinian

struggle for self-determination. The president also was right in his conviction that, "while Israel's military successes in Lebanon have demonstrated that its armed forces are second to none in the region, they alone cannot bring just and lasting peace to Israel and her neighbours".

But the real question remains not that of how to reconcile Israel's legitimate security concerns with the legitimate rights of the Palestinians but that of how much the Palestinians will have to accept in terms of trading territory and national rights for Israeli security; or how much negotiations with the Israelis under the present circumstances can achieve.

There, then, is the other question of what the United States' other views are on Israel's security needs than just Mr. Reagan's stated view that "the extent to which Israel should be asked to give up territory will be heavily affected by the extent of true peace and normalisation and the security arrangements offered in return". If there will be negotiations an agreement may emerge, but Israel's clearly stated intention of keeping every inch of occupied territories leaves no room for American manoeuvrability on this issue; and what is the U.S. to do about it?

The same set of principles will no less apply to the question of Jerusalem. What Washington thinks will of course be of vital

importance, but as yet the question remains perilously unanswered.

No one should be discouraged by the fact that the U.S. president will support positions that seem to him fair and reasonable and by his pledge to put forward U.S. detailed proposals when the Americans believe they can be helpful. More encouraging, however, is the absence of a clear commitment by the United States to put the area of superpower rivalry and spheres of influence. And it is actually sad to note that Mr. Reagan has chosen to ignore any role for the Soviet Union or Europe to play in negotiating a durable Middle East peace.

It's a U.S. view

In all probability, the Arabs are fully aware that the Reagan "package" does not satisfy all Arab demands nor does it meet all Palestinian rights. Still the Arab governments and peoples have to accept the fact that in the U.S. view Arabs and Israelis alike have to compromise. "Negotiations involving an exchange of territory for peace" is in essence what the whole new American position is about.

It becomes clear that in order to reach a solution for the Middle East crisis, much more than adoption of the Reagan package by all parties concerned needs to be done. The question is: Where and how should be the start?

Israeli and Syrian armies at rest waiting for diplomatic disengagement

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

BEKAA VALLEY, Lebanon — Five hundred metres from Israeli frontline positions, Syrian tanks are dug deep into the soil of freshly-reaped cornfields in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

On the Israeli side an earth rampart forms the outer defence perimeter around the "Arab" hospital, the invasion force's forward command post in the Jehh Jennine sector.

The hospital, a three-storey concrete structure, stands on its hillside like a medieval keep, set in a rural scene of idyllic beauty.

The grapes and watermelons are ripening, the ubiquitous hashish crop is growing taller and the unthreshed corn stands in heaps among the stubble.

Across the valley poplars and willows follow the course of irrigation channels and streamlets feeding the Litani river.

The two armies are at rest, waiting to see if diplomats in Beirut and Washington can disengage

them peacefully.

Israel is demanding the Syrians' unconditional withdrawal and Israel's right-wing Lebanese allies have made gloomy predictions that the battle for the Bekaa has yet to be fought.

Unconfirmed press and radio reports say each side has over 1,000 tanks deployed in the valley, which lies 600 metres above sea level.

A quick tour of the Syrian sector suggested the figure of 1,000 was excessive, though the tanks are below ground level and often difficult to detect except from the edge of their fortifications.

Diplomats said a larger Syrian force was stationed around the village of Deir Al Ashayir in a huge jutting into Syrian territory only 30 kms from the capital Damascus.

The area is of special strategic importance to Syria, since control of it gives easy access to the country's largest cities.

Syrian rear positions extend beyond the main Beirut-Damascus highway as far north as Rayyak, where the same semi-

circular ramparts protect armoured vehicles and anti-aircraft guns spread across the 12-km wide plain.

There is no sign of recent reinforcements or of the excavators used to dig the complex network of trenches.

Sunni Muslim residents of Sultan Yaaqoub, a farming village on the eastern slope of the valley close to Israeli-held Jehh Jennine, said the area had been quiet for more than a week.

Before that, they had watched the armies exchange intermittent tank fire across frontlines. A teachers' training college to the north was badly damaged in the fighting, they said.

Syrian military sources attributed the present lull to their success in preventing behind-the-lines operations by Palestinian guerrillas who refused to follow the Syrian battle plan.

Syrians responsible

Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon had held Syria responsible

for any violations of the ceasefire by guerrillas fighting from Syrian-held territory.

"The Palestinians aren't allowed here at all now, because the Israelis used to retaliate by shelling our tanks," a Syrian soldier said.

But at Ghazze, eight km north, correspondents saw several jeeps adorned with portraits of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the markings of his Fatah commandos group.

A hitch-hiker with a Palestinian accent insisted he was Syrian and smiled knowingly when his word was challenged.

At the Wavell refugee camp in Baalbek, where the Bekaa's Palestinian population is concentrated, an official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) told Reuters the guerrillas' interests sometimes conflicted with those of the Syrian regulars.

"Sometimes they (the Syrians) provide cover, but more often they stop operations which might harm them," he said.

Wavell camp has a long-

standing Palestinian population of 6,000 and an extra 4,500 have taken refuge there from Beirut and the Israeli-occupied south.

Local security sources said the PLO there could deploy some 2,000 men, armed only with light weapons—assault rifles and anti-tank grenades.

Officials of the Shi'ite Muslim paramilitary organisation Amal said a batch of Iranian volunteers was deployed in the hills around the town and local police said they numbered several hundred.

The volunteers, many of them veterans of the Gulf war, arrived in Damascus early in Israel's Lebanon campaign and later crossed into Lebanon. Amal could not confirm they had taken part in any fighting.

The organisation, which has wide support in this strongly Shi'ite area, had called for a general strike in Baalbek in protest against the election to the presidency of right-wing Christian militia commander Bashir Gemayel, described by an Amal statement as a pawn of Israeli and American interests.

Political problems await Pope in Spain

By Brian Mooney
Reuter

MADRID — Political problems that have dogged Pope John Paul in his travels round the world this year are awaiting him in Spain where he is due to pay the first visit by a reigning pontiff in October.

The Falkland Islands conflict overshadowed the Pope's trip to Britain and meant he had to pay a hurried visit to Argentina, and martial law in Poland kept him away from his homeland.

Unless there are last minute changes, the Pope will spend eight days in this predominantly Roman Catholic country from October 14-22, at the height of a general election campaign that the Socialists are tipped to win.

Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo's decision to hold the elections on October 28 has provoked a storm of protest from the left which said the visit would be exploited by Conservatives to thwart a Socialist victory.

The Communists, among other groups, called for postponement of the visit which was already put off once last year because of the attempt on the Pope's life.

Critics argued that it was tantamount to having the head of a foreign state interfere in a sovereign election.

Spanish church leaders expressed regret at the coincidence but said the visit would go ahead as planned, thus reinforcing the view on the left that the timing was somehow intentional.

The church argues that the Pope's mission in Spain is about religion and not politics.

But in a nation where politics and religion have been inextricably linked for centuries, such a clear-cut division may be hard to achieve in reality.

It was only three years ago that

church and state were formally separated in Spain. Divorce was legalised last year.

One of the choices open to voters will be between accelerating or halting this process. Socialists, for example, are in favour of legalising abortion and reducing Roman Catholic influence in education. The left fears that these are the sort of themes that the Pope is likely to dwell on, thus providing, even unwittingly, strong electoral ammunition for the Conservatives.

But the right-wing and centre parties have also grounds for fearing the Pope's visit during the election campaign.

While conservative in theological matters, the Pope is liberal and outspoken in defence of social justice. Church sources say it would be difficult for him to travel to the poor southern regions of Spain without touching on the main local preoccupation — unemployment.

With two million Spaniards out of work, unemployment is likely to be a major factor in the elections. The Socialists, campaigning with a promise to create more jobs, would stand to gain from any such declarations by the Pope.

Hidden factor

Ironically, there is also a hidden

factor in the Papal visit which benefits all parties committed to Spain's fledgling democracy. It would make a coup to forestall a leftist victory harder to pull off.

But some Spaniards argued that the fuss was premature and probably unjustified. They recalled that disputes about the timing and wisdom of Pope John Paul's travel plans are now commonplace but that the doubts were almost always dispelled by the goodwill and enthusiasm he generates and by his ability to communicate above the narrow confines of one nation's interests.

The Pope's successful visits to Britain and Argentina during the Falklands conflict are cited to support the view. But besides the elections there are other awkward issues facing the Pope in Spain. Chief among them is the cause of Basque separatism. The Pope is scheduled to visit the Basque country and all Spain will be watching to see how far he will go in condemning the Basque guerrilla violence.

The Madrid authorities have accused Basque bishops of being less than forthright in condemnation of the violence. The Pope will also encounter problems inside the Catholic church.

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Western world and fathered some of the church's most loved and inspiring saints.

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Most of the 16 cities and towns the Pope is scheduled to visit have specific religious status.

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By Ronland Farquhar
Reuter

Bulgarian culture misses Lyudmila Zhivkova

SOFIA — A year after the death of Lyudmila Zhivkova, minister for culture and powerful daughter of Bulgaria's president, there are signs that tighter official control is succeeding the era of relative liberalism she encouraged.

Under her chairmanship, the national committee on culture which manages and promotes the arts tolerated and encouraged modern trends and experimentation in fine arts at home.

The committee, an organisation with the status of a government ministry, opened up Bulgaria to outside cultural influence, particularly from the West, and actively propagated Bulgarian history and cultural treasures through exhibitions and other events in the capitalist world.

Although officials deny a change of policy, Western diplomats say they have seen apparent signs of a tougher official attitude in speeches and newspaper articles attacking "negative manifestations" in culture, and complaining that some ideologically ill-founded works portray isolated shortcomings in Communist society as general evils.

Mrs. Zhivkova, a historian by training who studied at Britain's

Oxford University, died from a brain haemorrhage in July last year, five days before her 39th birthday.

As a government minister and member of the ruling Communist Party's inner cabinet, the politburo, she wielded supreme power in the realms of culture, education and science.

At the Sofia headquarters of the committee on culture, where Mrs. Zhivkova's pale, intense features, still look down from wall photographs, a senior official said: "The position of the committee has not weakened, and the agenda

of events which took place during Mrs. Zhivkova's time is still being fulfilled."

Stanko Stankov, first deputy head of a department for international cultural activity, added: "Since she was the daughter of our president, many people speculated with the facts of her life and her death. But there was no basis for this speculation."

"Other ideas and initiatives are still valid for the people who come after her."

The fourth congress of Bulgarian culture, which officials said is due to be held here next Dec-

ember, will elect new ruling bodies of the national committee on culture.

Committee officials are at pains to stress that there will be no major changes in this policy now that Mrs. Zhivkova is gone.

Amongst her projects was a programme of "aesthetic education" that appeared to be a puzzling blend of mystic oriental philosophies and Marxist-Leninist doctrine, which she promoted in speeches couched in unusual esoteric language.

The delay aroused speculation in Western diplomatic circles

about a possible argument over future cultural policy within the Communist Party leadership between liberals seeking to ensure continuity of the course set by Mrs. Zhivkova and conservatives afraid that new trends and developments were escaping from party control.

At a plenary session of the culture committee last February which approved Mr. Yordanov's appointment, party politburo member Alexander Lilov, in charge of ideology and culture, raised the issue of future cultural policy, but said there would be no substantial changes.

Yet he acknowledged that there existed some unspecified weaknesses, difficulties and unsolved problems, and warned against both excessive liberal trends, and dogmatic and narrow-minded attitudes.

President Todor Zhivkov uttered sterner words in an address to a youth congress some four months later, saying there had been instances of ideological and aesthetic shortcomings in the creative arts.

Western diplomats believe that there and other criticisms indicate

a cautious strengthening of party control over the cultural scene, which may be reflected in the deliberations and decisions of the December congress.



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U.S. Tennis Open top seeds to face players not even ranked in top 100

NEW YORK (R) — Two players named Davis who aren't even ranked in the top 100 take on the number one singles seeds at the U.S. Open Tennis Championships Friday.

Marty Davis, ranked 106th among the men, faces fellow American John McEnroe, the defending men's champion. Then Jill Davis, no relation and rated the 104th best woman in the world, takes on Wimbledon women's champion Martina Navratilova.

The top-seeded McEnroe returns to the stadium court at the national tennis centre for the second straight day and would have preferred a day off. But his first

round match on Wednesday night against compatriot Tim Gullikson was suspended at 3-3 in the first set because of intermittent rain and a power failure.

They resumed Thursday and McEnroe struggled to a 7-6, 6-4, 7-5 triumph.

The 23-year-old New Yorker is trying to become the first player since Bill Tilden in the 1920s to win four consecutive U.S. men's singles titles, but he has not won a tournament since January and he conceded his game was still well below par.

"I'm being just a little tentative," he said. "I have to go after the ball a little more because that's my game. If I make people play

my game, and I play it well, then I think I have a shot against anybody."

Navratilova, born in Czechoslovakia but now a U.S. citizen, had an easy 6-1, 6-1 triumph over American Laura Dupont in her first match on Wednesday night and showed no sign of a virus which has been affecting her.

She should have no trouble against Jill Davis, who had to qualify for the tournament and who has never beaten a high-ranking player.

The second and third-seeded women, Americans Chris Evert Lloyd and defending champion Tracy Austin, both reached the third round Thursday.

Lloyd needed only 41 minutes to crush compatriot Kelly Henry 6-1, 6-0, the same score by which she had won her first-round match, while Austin battled back from a 4-2 deficit in the first set to topple American Beth Norton 7-6, 6-3.

Lloyd was particularly pleased with her own play. "I hardly made any errors. I moved well and I was hitting the ball firmly," she said.

"I'm playing a lot better than I did at Wimbledon and I came so close to winning there," she said.

"I didn't have that extra confidence at Wimbledon, but after the final there I felt that if I got into the same situation here that the outcome would be different."

Keegan's fitness in doubt for Newcastle's clash at Bolton

LONDON (R) — England captain Kevin Keegan, new hero of old favourites Newcastle United, is a fitness doubt for the second division clash at Bolton in the English League soccer Saturday.

The former European Footballer-of-the-Year has scored in both wins which have made Newcastle front-runners in division, but he was Friday receiving intensive treatment on both ankles for knocks sustained in Wednesday's victory over Blackburn.

Fellow striker Mike Channon, who played beside Keegan for England and first division Southampton, was waiting for official clearance to make his Newcastle debut. He has been registered to play in Hong Kong.

David Cross, who has also scored in both matches for Manchester City, is doubtful for Saturday's clash with fellow pacesetters Watford in the first division.

Cross, a £135,000 (\$235,000) signing from West Ham whose goals helped sink Norwich and Stoke, has aggravated an ankle injury which has troubled him since the season started.

Team-mate Kevin Bond has a calf injury and ex-England international Dennis Tueart and Chris Jones, an off-season free transfer signing, from Tottenham Hotspur, stand by.

Newly-promoted Watford, off-like City—to a flying start with two wins in two games, plan to field an unchanged line-up for their clash at City's Maine Road ground.

City's local rivals Manchester United, the only other first division team with a 100 per cent record, also stick to a winning combination for their visit to West Bromwich Albion.

Irish international striker Frank Stapleton had three stitches in a cut over his left eye after United's 3-0 midweek win over Nottingham Forest but is fit to play.

West Bromwich's England striker Cyrille Regis is available for the first time this season after a two-match suspension but might not be able to walk straight into a side that swept five goals past Brighton in midweek.

Nicky Cross may have to make way for Regis but manager Ron Wylie is leaving his decision till just before the kick-off.

Arsenal will be without England World Cup defender Kenny Sansom and striker Alan Sunderland for the visit of reigning champions Liverpool.

Tottenham manager Keith Burkinshaw has decided against recalling Argentine Ricky Villa for the match at Everton. Villa, still not fully match fit, will play in the reserves but Mike Hazard returns to the senior team.

Hinault in good shape for his bid to regain road cycling crown

GOODWOOD, England (R) — French team manager Jacques Anquetil believes any one of 20 riders can win the professional road race, closing event of the two-week World Cycling Championships here on Sunday.

Anquetil, who shares a record five Tour de France victories with Belgian Eddy Merckx, cast his expert eye over the provisional entry list and said: "If everyone is in good shape there are 20 possible gold medalists."

"The course is not difficult, the outcome depends on how the race develops."

Bernard Hinault, the rider who became a French national hero after Anquetil retired, had his first serious workout on the sun-drenched undulating circuit Friday and looked in good shape for his bid to regain the title he last won two years ago.

Anquetil said Hinault had cheered up a lot after becoming depressed over the dope-test row with the French national federation—a month-long dispute which left the world number one undecided about competing at Goodwood until two days ago.

"Hinault has not come here for the federation. He has come for the French minister of sport, the public and the organisers," Anquetil said.

The French minister acted as a

go-between in the dispute which arose when several leading French riders refused to take dope tests after an event at Callac, Brittany on July 27.

The riders were fined and also received suspended one-month bans, but said they were treated unfairly, claiming the tests were based on unfounded suspicions.

Four times Tour de France winner Marc Gomez, Pierre-Raymond Villamane, and Gilbert Duclos-Lassalle among the French candidates for the medals.

Dutch duo Gerrie Knetemann and Jan Raas are also well in contention for a repeat of their victories in 1978 and 1979, while Italian trio Francesco Moser, Giuseppe Saronni and Gianbattista Baronchelli could also impress in the 275-km test.

Other riders who could be in contention include Australian Phil Anderson and Ireland's Sean Kelly who revel in one-day races and made lasting impressions on this year's Tour de France.

One of the last riders to arrive at Goodwood was reigning champion Freddy Maertens. The unpredictable Belgian was said to have been given a lift to the circuit by a sympathetic waiter at the restaurant where he had lunch because taxi drivers refused the 100-km fare from Gatwick Air-

port to race headquarters.

The three-race road programme opens with the 61.2-km women's race Saturday morning. Ute Eizenauer of West Germany defends her title and can expect a stiff challenge from both the United States and Soviet Union teams.

Soviets favourite at European boxing meet

SCHWERIN, East Germany (R) — The European Junior Amateur Boxing Championships open here Saturday night with 153 competitors from 22 countries participating in the one-week event.

The Soviet Union are again expected to earn the majority of the medals, though observers expect some good performances from British, Irish, West German or Bulgarian athletes.

Soviet boxers secured 37 of the total of 67 titles in the past six championships.

The East German Boxing Federation announced earlier this week it had new ten-ounce gloves developed for the event to reduce injuries to the eyebrow, one of the main causes for contests stopped in the past.

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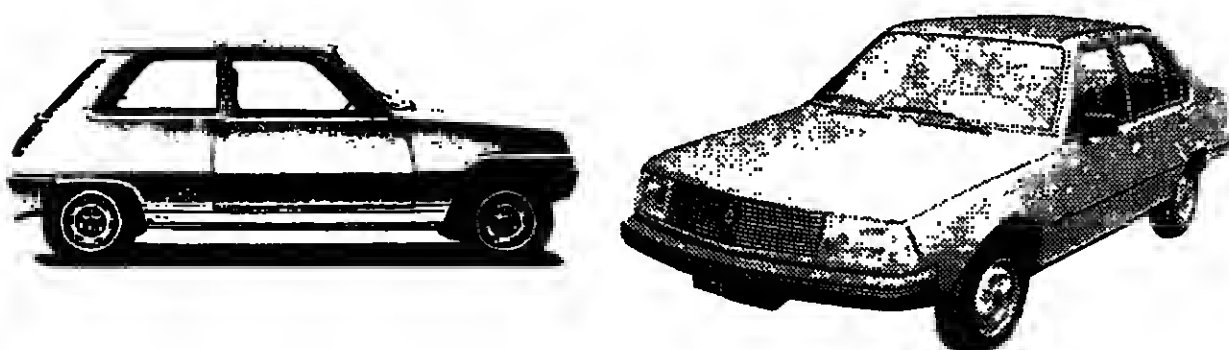
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2. Prequalified Arab contractors, or other interested Arab contractors provided that they submit their qualification documents.
3. Prequalified international contractors, or other interested international contractors provided that they submit their qualification document, which show their ability to execute such work. Priority shall be given to international contractors who associate or make a joint venture with a local contractor, who shall share with them all obligations and responsibilities.
4. Tender documents can be obtained from the Tenders Section, MPW at a price of JD 300. This sum shall not be refunded to tenderers.
5. Tender documents can be obtained not later than 12 noon, Sunday 12/9/1982.
6. A pre-tendering conference will be held at the MPW for all participating tenderers at 9 a.m. on Tuesday 14/9/1982.
7. Tenders shall be submitted to Tenders Section, MPW not later than 10 a.m. Wednesday 22/9/1982.

Chief of Central Tender Committee
for Government Works,
Under-Secretary of MPW



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World trade is under threat, GATT says

GENEVA (R) — World trade is showing increasingly dangerous parallels to the 1930s, with the international banking system under threat and protectionism on the rise, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said Friday.

A boom in bank lending in the 1970s, similar to that which preceded the great depression, has left many countries and companies over-indebted and loaded down the world financial system, it said in a report reviewing the past 18 months.

At the same time, protectionism has proceeded apace as governments try to maintain industries under severe pressure from high inflation, interest rates and energy prices and low-cost foreign competition.

The report, which appears three months before a major GATT trade ministers' meeting, said these two trends were now converging and could lead to deflation — a collapse in prices such as that which plagued the world economy in the 1930s.

Protectionism itself still poses a grave threat to world trade, the report said, "but the more immediate danger may be that it will trigger a severe disturbance in the already troubled international financial system."

"Protectionism could cause an international liquidity shortage, one severe enough to produce a series of insolvencies," it went on.

"When anti-inflation policies are pursued in conjunction with increasingly restrictive commercial policies, and with domestic economic policies which tend to inhibit market adjustment, it must be admitted that a high degree of deflationary danger exists."

The report by GATT, which survives to liberalise world trade, str-

essed that much recent international lending has been "deadweight debt" — debt to finance imports rather than increase productive capital.

It estimated current debts of the oil-importing Third World at over \$500 billion and for Eastern Europe at \$80 to 90 billion.

The inter-allied war debts and German reparations which accounted for the surge in international indebtedness in the 1920s were also "deadweight debt", it pointed out.

Looking back to 1930s

In another worried look back to the 1930s, it noted the trade restrictions of the period pushed many businesses into insolvency as the export markets they depended on were cut off.

A renewed effort to liberalise world trade and reduce government subsidies which hinder industrial adjustment would be the first step toward world economic recovery, the report suggested.

Such a reaffirmation of world trade rules would signal a return to stable economic conditions, boost sagging investment rates and help countries adjust their industries to changing conditions.

"There is little doubt that uncertainty caused by protection against imports, in the form of trade barriers and/or subsidies of one kind or another, is among the most important factors causing the backlog of adjustment," it said.

Freer trade would also help ensure that surplus funds, such as the "petrodollars" of the oil-producing countries, are recycled into productive investments.

"We now see that the recycling of current account surpluses to deficit countries can be carried out

in a financially sound way only if the borrowers are guaranteed secure access to their main overseas markets," it said.

The first half of this year showed no improvement on 1981, when world trade contracted by one per cent in value in its first decline since 1958, the report added.

Drop in oil exports

In volume terms, overall world production continued to slow last year, growing by only nine per cent. The 4-1/2 per cent drop in manufactures trade and three per cent growth in agricultural commerce were almost cancelled out by a 15 per cent drop in exports of crude and refined oil.

One positive sign is that Western inflation has declined from 13 per cent in 1980 to about eight per cent in mid-1982, indicating a possible break in an almost 20-year trend toward rising long-term inflation.

Industrialised countries should have a \$10 billion surplus in their current account balances this year after a deficit of the same size in 1981, the report estimated.

But the oil producers should see their surpluses shrink to \$20 billion from \$55 billion in 1981. Developing states should show the same \$85 billion deficit as 1981.

In the trade balance column, industrialised states saw their combined trade deficit narrow by about one-half to \$50 billion last year while the surplus of the oil exporters narrowed to \$120 billion from 170 billion.

Other developing countries saw their deficit widen to \$80 billion. Eastern Europe narrowed its deficit, the Soviet Union narrowed its surplus and China went into surplus after a 1980 trade deficit.

Gold reaches record high of 1982

LONDON (R) — The price of gold soared to its highest for almost a year Friday on a speculative buying wave caused partly by concern over Latin American debt problems.

The London morning fixing price by bullion houses was \$454.75 an ounce, the highest since last Sept. 23 and \$45 higher than Thursday's afternoon setting.

Gold, a traditional investment in difficult times, has jumped more than \$50 since Wednesday evening when it briefly dipped below \$400. Dealers said the market Friday was extremely nervous.

The strong rise has been touched off by the nationalisation of Mexican private banks which drew attention to Mexico's \$80-billion debt problem and the heavy exposure of U.S. banks on loans there and elsewhere in Latin America, dealers said.

An easing in U.S. interest rates and a recent decline of the dollar has also improved the attractions of gold, which has made a comeback with international investors since sinking to a two-year low of \$296 an ounce in June.

Asia and European markets

Markets in Asia and Europe Friday took their cue from the \$32 advance to \$439 in New York overnight.

The metal closed at \$450 an ounce in Hong Kong, its highest there since last October. It opened in Europe at around \$443 but quickly advanced above \$450, and traded after the fixing at around \$455.

Gold shares also moved sharply higher on stock markets.

Europeans to chart joint policy in a bid to reverse U.S. ban on gas pipeline

LONDON (R) — Britain, France, West Germany and Italy coordinated tactics Friday in hopes of reversing a U.S. ban on gas pipeline equipment sales to the Soviet Union.

Government officials said the four countries were seeking a face-saving formula that would enable President Reagan to drop sanctions against European suppliers.

The sanctions have provoked bitter protests by the U.S. allies and have led to a major Transatlantic crisis.

Senior officials of the countries mainly affected met at a hurriedly-arranged London conference to chart a joint policy for talks with the United States, to be held possibly next week.

All sides wanted a "low-key, non-confrontational approach" in stop widening of the row which has disrupted the NATO alliance, European diplomats said.

Officials said the four governments wanted broad talks with the U.S. to cover all aspects of Reagan administration policy towards East-West trade, not just the controversial Siberia-to-West Europe pipeline.

Washington has threatened to blacklist European firms supplying components for the pipeline by making it impossible for them to obtain American oil and gas-related equipment and technology. The sanctions could lead to heavy losses.

U.S. officials have hinted a compromise might be reached, allowing pipeline shipments to continue, if European governments joined the U.S. in other forms of economic pressure against the Soviet Union.

One suggestion would bar European involvement in a projected second strand of the 4,500-kilometre pipeline, due to start pumping gas to Western Europe in 1984.

Officials attending the London meeting were described as high-ranking diplomats and trade experts who have been working on the problem since Mr. Reagan extended pipeline sanctions to European firms in June.

Since then, European firms holding U.S. production licenses have faced the threat of trade reprisals if they help build the \$10 billion Soviet showcase project.

Previous American sanctions, designed to hit the Kremlin for its involvement in Poland, affected only U.S.-based firms. Originally, the sanctions threatened to cut off all U.S. exports to European defaulters, but this week were relaxed to cover only supplies for the oil and gas industries.

Sanctions against two French firms went into effect last week after the shipment of three French compressors to the Soviet Union, and have been threatened against a British firm which is supplying six turbines.

Port authority officials in Glasgow said the British ship, loaded aboard the Soviet freighter Stakhanovets Yermolenko this week, may be delayed until the end of next week.

The delay would give the U.S. a breathing space in considering sanctions against the British firm, John Brown.

This could mean the U.S. could hold off on action affecting Britain, its closest ally, in hopes that the planned U.S.-European talks will provide a compromise solution.

British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym said Thursday night he hoped the Europeans and the U.S. would meet early next week.

Japanese delegation to visit Tehran

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese delegation will visit Tehran this month for talks with Iran on their joint venture for a giant petrochemical complex in southern Iran, a spokesman for the Mitsui group here said Friday.

Industry sources said the two sides would discuss financing to complete construction work on the complex, which was halted at the start of Iran's war with Iraq nearly two years ago when it was 85 per cent complete.

The plant, in Bandar Khomeini, has been bombed six times by Iraqi planes during the conflict.

The Mitsui spokesman said the delegation, leaving here on Sept. 14, will comprise Karoku Yamaguchi, president of the Iran Chemical Development Company (ICDC), and representatives of Mitsui and four other firms.

The multi-billion dollar project was started in 1971, when the five companies of the Mitsui group formed the ICDC, but the Japanese side is now refusing to furnish any fresh funds.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market ended the account on a higher note with much of the demand noted for gold shares and fixed interest stock in reaction to Latin American debt problems, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 5.9 at 588.8.

Gold shares ended with rises ranging to 5 1/2% but some issues were below Friday's highs owing to profit taking. Government bonds firmed up to 1 1/4 points in active two way interest, dealers said.

Lloyds bank ended 8p off at 400 after 398 in a nervous banking sector but other banks recovered to overnight levels.

Industrial leaders were generally higher with ICI 10p up at 292. GEC gained 20p at 1100 and Plessey advanced 17p to 530. Rascal put on 14p at 545 in further reaction to the cable television deal with Oak Industries of California.

Dome Petroleum returned to 205 from 210p after news the company was unable to meet certain debt repayments, dealers said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.7403/13	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2334/37	Canadian dollars
	2.4550/60	West German marks
	2.6885/6915	Dutch guilders
	2.0835/55	Swiss francs
	47.10/13	Belgian francs
	6.9190/9240	French francs
	1386.50/1387.50	Italian lire
	255.70/85	Japanese yen
	6.1125/45	Swedish crowns
	6.6395/6415	Norwegian crowns
	8.6040/65	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	453.00/455.00	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF. By Vinson



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPT. 4, 1982

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when you can engage in activities you enjoy. Study your environment and make definite plans for improvement. Make positive plans for the future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Engage in community activities that will improve your reputation. Express your talents to the right people.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study details of a plan you have in mind and be ready to put it across soon. Do more thinking about the future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be most efficient at regular chores and get the right results. Try to improve your surroundings. Be considerate of neighbors.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be sure to clarify your position on a legal matter with associates. Show others that you can be trusted.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Go over any outside work and be sure it is done correctly, otherwise improve it. Take health treatments you may need.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good day to be with congenials for fun but don't overstep or you'll regret it. Observe and obey rules that apply to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Put new mechanisms in your home so that it's more functional. Contact friends who have the information you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find day for obtaining all the data you need in order to operate more efficiently in the future. Be wary of strangers now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Good day to study your accounts and see that they are accurate. Engage in favorite hobby with congenials.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Fine day for handling personal matters. Plan how to handle routine tasks with least expenditure of time and energy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Know what your personal aims are and then initiate steps towards gaining them. Try to improve your surroundings.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get together with good friends and enjoy the sociability. Find out exactly what you want to accomplish in the future.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY . . . be or she will be one of those charming young persons in constant search of knowledge, so be sure to have newspapers, around and send to the right schools that will help develop this talent. Teach good manners early in life. "The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword By Evelyn Benshoof

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Fashion	31 Upright
5 Yokels	32 Dromedary
10 Tabula —	33 Oklahoma
14 Actor	34 Frenzied
15 Maternity	35 Weary
16 Cupid	36 Watched
17 Grate	37 Glimmer
18 Eliminates	38 First rate
20 Distinctive	39 Book of
22 Frail	40 Equipped
23 Papal	41 Equipped
24 Excessively	42 Publish
25 Fancy	43 Mosquito
27 Carpenter's	44 Mosquito
28 bolt	45 Genders
	46 Intimidate
	47 Purpose
	48 Fail back
	49 Endorsement
	50 Practical
	51 Second-hand
	52 Deal
	53 Sam or Tom
	54 Deterrent
	55 Dilemma
	56 Moved up
	57 Moved down
	58 Microcrant
	59 Frenziedly
	60 Spirit
	61 Bohemian
	62 Actor Bruce

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WORLD

Polish city sealed off for funeral of slain workers

WARSAW (R) — The western city of Lubin, disrupted by street clashes this week, was in the tight grip of security forces Friday for the funeral of two workers shot dead during demonstrations on Tuesday, official sources said.

The sources in nearby Wroclaw, contacted by telex from Warsaw, said the copper-mining city was calm an hour before the scheduled start of the funeral at 11 a.m. but there were fears fresh disturbances could break out later.

They said people trying to drive into Lubin were turned back at security force roadblocks and use of private cars in the city was banned.

Restaurants and bars were closed, sales of alcohol and petrol were stopped and police rigorously enforced an overnight curfew after a third successive day of violence Thursday.

News was only gradually fil-

tering out from Lubin because telephone connections were suspended.

The municipal phone network was also closed down, the sources said, although lines between the hospital, the fire station and first aid stations were kept open.

The sources said the copper mines, the main employer in Lubin, were working Friday and schools were open.

But the city was tense and it was believed there could be further clashes when workers left their shifts at lunchtime and the schools were out, when people might gather at the cemetery where the two workers were being buried, the sources said.

The disturbances in Lubin were part of a wave of clashes which broke over most main Polish cities following a call by underground leaders of the suspended Solidarity trade union to mark the

second anniversary of its birth.

Reports which filtered through to Warsaw in the last 24 hours have indicated the demonstrations were far more fierce and widespread than at first believed.

The official media have reported that dozens of security forces and civilians were injured. Two policemen are in serious condition, one in the steel-making town of Nowa Huta.

In Warsaw two civilians are seriously injured, one after being hit on the head by a stone and another a bus driver whose vehicle was wrecked.

More than 4,000 people were detained in different cities after the demonstrations.

Western diplomatic observers said they revealed both a deep anger among many people and a rigid official determination that such protests against martial law would not be tolerated, even though the organisers called for them to be peaceful.

KOR leaders arrested

WARSAW (R) — Polish authorities have formally arrested the most prominent leaders of the disbanded dissident movement KOR, many of whose members played a key role as advisers to the Solidarity trade union, a government spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman also told a press conference that after the street clashes that erupted across Poland this week the government did not consider the leaders of the suspended free trade union as viable partners for a dialogue.

He said the decision to arrest the KOR leaders, many of whom are interned with the top Solidarity officials, resulted from "a political judgment of the present situation."

U.N. protests at new Soviet writing system

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union said Thursday it would not insist on truncating its space capsules from Soyuz to "Souz", watering down its tangle red beet soup from horscht to "bors", or paring former leader Nikita Khrushchev back to a mere "Hrushev".

It had asked the United Nations to adopt such spelling changes as part of a new system for writing Russian names in the Roman alphabet, approved by Moscow in 1980 and now in use for official documents throughout Eastern Europe.

But the proposal, at the U.N. conference on standardisation of geographical names, drew protests from Britain and the United States which said it could cause chaos for printers, confusion for readers and enormous costs for governments having to change official documents.

After accusing his critics of "scaremongering"—vodka, after all, would not have been tampered with—Soviet chief delegate Evgeny Arsanov said Moscow did not want to force a new transliteration system for Cyrillic on the United Nations.

Cyrillic, a Greek-based alphabet with single letters for Slavic sounds which need up to four letters in the Roman alphabet, is used in Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Serbian and other Slavic languages.

Mapmakers and linguistic scholars said the new transliteration for Cyrillic used too many diacritical marks—accents to indicate special sounds—that would be left off in most spellings.

Yalta, the site of a major allied summit during World War II, would become "Alta" with an accent over the "A" that most typewriters could not reproduce, they said.

The Soviet proposal will now be discussed by experts for several years.

Soviets cut automatic phone link with Europe

BONN (R) — The Soviet Union has cut all automatic telephone exchange links with West Germany and a number of other Western countries this week, chief government spokesman Klaus Boelling said Friday.

He told a news conference that, if the measures proved to be more than temporary, Bonn would regard it as being a breach of sections of the 1975 Helsinki accord covering increased human contacts between East and West.

Mr. Boelling said that all self-dial telephone traffic between the Soviet Union and West Germany had been cut since Wednesday and that only calls through an operator were now possible.

Iran says it can send oil out of Kharg Island

LONDON (R) — Iran says it has coped with an attempt to throttle its vital oil exports mounted by Iraq, which sent planes to bomb its Kharg Island terminal and threatened to sink any tanker that loaded there.

Tehran Radio quoted Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Abbas Honardoust as saying that 14 tankers had loaded at Kharg Island last week. He listed all of them.

He also announced that Iran's own national insurance company was ready to insure tankers that ventured into Kharg Island, at lower premiums than those now levied by Western insurers.

Last Friday the London Lloyd's war risk insurance committee imposed premiums of three per cent of the value of the cargo for ships loading in the war zone. Mr. Honardoust said the Iranian premium would be only one per cent.

Earlier, Western oil industry sources had said some shipowners were certainly scared of going to Kharg Island for fear tankers could be bombed. Those willing to go charged soaring freight rates and the higher Lloyd's insurance, on top of these, might well offset the attractions to buyers of Iranian crude oil, priced below the world average.

Industry sources said Iran's latest move clearly aimed to offset a penalty on its oil of \$2.50 to three a barrel compared with other Gulf crudes shipped to Europe, resulting from the higher freight and insurance costs.

Iran, in a drive for sales, had earlier cut prices below levels mandated by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), quoting \$31.20 a barrel for oil similar to that sold by Saudi Arabia at \$34.

But Iranian sources denied that besides the offer to insure cargoes, Iran was making discounts to continue selling oil of up to \$6 a barrel. Buyers questioned by Reuters said Iran offered various incentives but they could not confirm discounts on that scale.

Western industry sources estimate that Iraqi threats against Kharg Island had some success, perhaps temporarily, in reducing Iranian oil output below nearly 2.4 million barrels daily achieved in July.

Expectations that this would prove to be the case have put up prices in the Rotterdam spot, non-contract market, where operators said Arab light crude oil traded at around \$33 a barrel Thursday, its highest for some weeks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Syrian president's brother buys luxury home in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Lt. Col. Rifaat Assad, chief of Syria's security forces and the brother of President Hafez Assad, has paid over \$1 million in cash for a luxury home near Washington, the Washington Post reported Friday. The paper said the Syrian official paid \$1.1 million for a mansion on a quiet cul-de-sac in nearby Potomac, Maryland, two weeks ago. Col. Assad's itinerary in the United States and the purchase of the house were kept a close secret. His arrival in Washington during negotiations in Lebanon sparked press speculation he was here to make contacts with U.S. officials. The real estate broker who handled the sale, Farid Strum, was quoted as saying Col. Assad left the Washington area last week for a trip to the West Coast and was expected to enrol his two sons at George Washington University this autumn.

Over 30 million Indians hit by monsoon flooding

NEW DELHI (R) — More than 30 million people in four Indian states have been affected by heavy monsoon flooding, according to reports reaching New Delhi Friday. Troops and medical teams are carrying out major flood relief operations in northern and eastern parts of the country, including helicopter food drops to stranded villagers. At least 160 people have been reported killed in the flooding which has swamped villages, damaged crops and drowned livestock.

Iranian rebels claim killing Khomeini aide

PARIS (R) — Iranian guerrillas fighting the government of Ayatollah Khomeini killed one of his senior officials five days ago in Tehran, the left-wing People's Mojahadeen movement has said. A statement from the Mujahadeen's Paris office said Abbas Mahlouji, a high ranking official of the ruling Islamic Republican Party who was in charge of labour, was killed by Mojahadeen guerrillas on August 28.

Uganda to return Asian property

KAMPALA (R) — The Ugandan parliament has approved the first stage of a bill under which the thousands of Asians expelled in 1972 by ousted dictator Idi Amin will be given 90 days to reclaim confiscated property. The bill, which is expected to be passed into law within a week, stipulates that if members of the once-thriving Asian community do not return within the three-month period, their property — everything from hotels to factories — will be sold. Under the bill Asians who reclaim property, estimated to be worth tens of millions of dollars, must stay in Uganda for five years before selling it.

Pisa's leaning tower steady since 1980

PISA, Italy (R) — The leaning tower of Pisa has stopped leaning a bit more every year, city officials say. The 12th century marble tower increased its tilt by about one millimetre each year during the 1970s but has now remained stable since 1980.

Indian journalists go on strike

NEW DELHI (R) — Journalists throughout India went on 24-hour strike Friday in protest at a bill passed by the eastern state of Bihar which they say threatens press freedom. The full impact of the stoppage was not immediately known, but major newspapers and news agencies announced they would remain closed for the day. The state-owned radio was not affected.

'Namibia will gain its independence within one year'

LUSAKA (R) — Independence will come to Namibia (South West Africa) within a year, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger predicted Thursday. Kissinger, on a one-day visit to Zambia, discussed the future of the South African-administered territory with President Kenneth Kaunda.

ICRC blocks novel by former aide on El Salvador

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has blocked sales of a book about El Salvador by one of its former delegates and started court proceedings against him, an ICRC spokeswoman said Friday.

"Kupferstunde" (copper hour), a novel about what former delegate Dres Balmer saw in the prisons and government offices of war-torn El Salvador in 1980-81, has been withdrawn from sale by a court order, spokeswoman Michelle Mercier said.

Mr. Balmer, accused of breaking the confidentiality oath which all ICRC delegates sign

before their humanitarian missions in war zones, has also been summoned to a court inquiry.

"This book could be read as something which could jeopardise our work in many countries," she added. "We have to protect these activities somehow."

The author, who worked as an ICRC delegate in Zaire, Thailand and Cambodia before going to El Salvador, told Reuters: "I find it absurd that the ICRC is making all this hubbuh."

"It's counterproductive," added Mr. Balmer, who was sacked from the ICRC after his book appeared in July.

He wrote the book as a novel after the ICRC refused permission for a factual report more detailed in its criticism of the El Salvador government.

The ICRC, whose 175 delegates are often the only outsiders allowed on humanitarian missions in war zones, argues that neutrality ensures it can continue to check on how warring countries treat their prisoners, wounded and civilians.

Mr. Balmer, 33, portrays in his book the problems he had in keeping neutral while a brutal civil war raged all around him.

In interviews given before the

ICRC summoned him to court, he argued that the Red Cross was exploited by repressive regimes who used its presence as proof they had nothing to hide.

He declined to comment on the case, saying the court summons included an ICRC order to stop speaking to the press. "I find that rather curious: Free speech is guaranteed in the (Swiss) constitution," he said by telephone from his home in Fribourg.

The ICRC spokeswoman would not say what legal charges the Red Cross would bring and Mr. Balmer said they had not been detailed in the summons.

U.S. navy wants cheaper F-18

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. navy is increasing its pressure on aircraft manufacturers McDonnell Douglas and Northrop to cut the price of their F-18 fighter-bomber by threatening to cancel future purchases.

About \$40 billion in proposed contracts are in jeopardy, navy officials have said.

In place of the F-18, they said, the navy would buy more F-14

fighters and A-6 bombers to fill the dual fighter-bomber role now envisioned for the F-18.

Last year, the navy paid \$24.1 million for the single-seat, twin-engine plane.

The initial threat to the firms came a month ago when defence officials indicated that F-18 purchases would be cut if the plane's price was not lowered.

Microlight race begins

LONDON (R) — More than 70 flimsy-looking flying machines, powered by small motorcycle engines and with their pilots exposed to the elements, take off for Paris Friday in the biggest event to be staged in Europe for microlight planes.

Microlight flying was developed from hang-gliding in California about five years ago and is now the fastest growing branch of recreational aviation.

A typical microlight is powered by a 125 c.c. two-stroke engine and cruises at about 65 kph. Many pilots have built their own machines from kits supplied by small manufacturers in Europe and the United States.

In Friday's run from the wartime fighter base at Biggin Hill in southern England to the Bois de Boulogne in Paris, the pilots will be judged on accurate timing and navigation, speed over one leg of the journey, landing skill and fuel consumption.

The entrants, who come from six countries, have said they will be attempting to re-create some of the pioneering spirit of Frenchman Louis Bleriot, who flew his home-built plane across the channel 73 years ago.

One reason for the boom in microlights is that they have brought the thrills of flying within reach of almost anyone.

A ready-built microlight can be bought in Britain for around \$7,000, cheaper than most cars and far less than the \$50,000 cost of a light plane.

They can be flown from a field the size of a soccer pitch and are often assembled from a trailer or a car roof-rack.

There are some 6,000 microlights in the United States and in Britain they are selling at the rate of 1,000 a year.

Regulations vary between countries. In West Germany the sport is almost completely banned. But in Britain, where eight people have been killed in microlight accidents this year, the authorities have only this week announced that pilots' licences are needed.

As a result of the deaths, the British Civil Aviation Authority is preparing to bring microlights under a system of airworthiness regulations.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
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Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J ♠ AKQ105 ♦ 83 ♣ Q9832
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
6 ♦ Dble ?
What action do you take?
A.—East's double is conventional, asking for an unusual lead — generally the suit first bid by dummy. He probably has the ace-queen over your partner's king, and at a club contract a diamond lead will give the defense the first two tricks. Convert to six trumps. East becomes the opening leader, and your partner's king of diamonds is protected from a lead through.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A6 ♠ J4 ♣ QJ83 ♠ AK1076
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 1 ♣
Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—When partner makes a jump shift as a passed hand, something has happened to improve his holding to the equivalent of an opening bid. That must be either a fit with your suit, or an excellent suit of his own. Your hand rates one move, and we suggest a raise to three spades — under the circumstances, your support is adequate.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AQ95 ♠ K93 ♠ K98 ♠ Q97
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
A.—If you enter the auction on this motley collection and find West with the balance of power, the result could be bloody indeed. Pass. A double by you would show the equivalent of a one no trump

opening bid, and would be penalty-oriented.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 ♠ AJ10 ♠ AKQ854 ♠ AQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
? What do you bid now?
A.—Despite the fact that you don't have a fit for partner's suit, your hand seems strong enough to insist on game. Since the most likely game is in no trump and you have both unbid suits well under control, we recommend a jump to three no trump. True, your hand is unbalanced, and partner has every reason to expect another spade from you, but he should not correct to four spades unless he has a long, decent suit and a hand unsuited to no trump play.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 73 ♠ 987532 ♦ 1082 ♠ AQ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♣ 2 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
A.—There is a strong temptation to double, but your hand — especially your trumps — is not quite good enough. You might take only one trump trick! There is also the possibility that someone will remove the double, and then you will be badly placed in the ensuing auction. Pass.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 1092 ♠ J8652 ♦ KJ5 ♠ A8
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dble Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Facing a takeout double, you have quite a good hand, and it is your duty to advise partner of this fact. Jump to three hearts. A bid of only two hearts could be made on a hush, and partner will pass with many hands that could produce a game. A jump response to a takeout double is invitational, not forcing.

Fatuous U.S. policy turns Nicaragua hostile

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

U.S. over-reaction

MANAGUA — "Forward march, comrades," says the anthem of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). "We fight against the Yankee, enemy of mankind."

The anti-Yankee sentiment is as acute today as it was when the anthem was adopted in 1978, a year before the young revolutionaries of the FSLN ended the brutal rule of right-wing dictator Anastasio Somoza and changed the political map of Central America.

The anthem poses difficult protocol decisions for U.S. diplomats attending functions where large crowds join in full-throated condemnation of the "enemy of mankind." In the absence of clear-cut instructions, diplomats occasionally walk out but more often display displeasure by remaining seated.

The Sandinistas' unflattering view of the United States government has its roots in more than 40 years of staunch U.S. support for the Somoza dictatorship and a history of intervention which brought U.S. Marines to Nicaragua, twice in the first half of the century.

Since the Sandinistas — named after Augusto Cesar Sandino, leader of a successful military campaign for the withdrawal of U.S. troops 50 years ago — won the civil war against Somoza, relations between Washington and Managua have gone steadily from bad to worse.

Citing Nicaraguan support for leftist guerrillas in El Salvador and Guatemala, the U.S. cut off all economic aid in 1981 and accused the leadership here of exporting left-wing revolution to central America in concert with Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Nicaragua, in turn, accuses the U.S. of engineering efforts to bring down the Sandinistas militarily, strangle them economically and isolate them politically.

European diplomats here say that U.S. policy towards Nicaragua is playing a major role in shaping internal developments here.

"The more the leadership feels threatened," said one Western European envoy, "the more it is inclined to defend its position with restrictive measures."

A case in point was the destruction last March of two important bridges by saboteurs who slipped into the country from Honduras, where several thousand former members of Somoza's hated National Guard maintain a string of military bases along the frontier.

In reaction to the raid, the nine-member directorate running Nicaragua imposed a 30-day state of emergency, extended ever since, which gave the army and police sweeping powers of arrest, provided for press censorship, outlawed strikes, and restricted other political freedoms.

U.S. influence

Diplomats here say there is little

doubt that Washington could end the operations of anti-Sandinistas in Honduras if it felt so inclined. But in the past two months, cross-border raids have actually been stepped up, with the Sandinistas reporting more than 100 of their troops dead in a single three-week period.

Western military experts here say the late Somoza's former guardsmen in Honduras have no chance of military victory against the Sandinista army, estimated at around 18,000. Judging from conversations with Nicaraguans on both sides of the political spectrum, virtually no-one would welcome the return of the ex-guardsmen, not even those most outspoken in their opposition to the Sandinistas.

"The U.S. complains about the (anti-American) rhetoric emanating from Managua," said Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco. "We complain about (concrete) actions."

Such actions included joint U.S.-Honduran manoeuvres in July and August, when U.S. air force planes piloted by Americans ferried more than 1,000 Honduran troops to the tense border with Nicaragua.

In July, a confidential document leaked from the World Bank indicated that Sandinista claims that the U.S. is trying to throttle international credits to Nicaragua might be more than mere rhetoric.

According to the document, the World Bank — traditionally close to the U.S. government — is considering ceasing credits to Nicaragua by 1985 unless the private

sector of the economy here is given a share in political power, a demand pressed by Washington.

Mixed Sandinista record

After their victory, known here as "el triunfo" (the triumph), the Sandinistas pledged to uphold the principles of political pluralism, a mixed economy, and non-alignment in international affairs. Their record has been mixed.

Although five opposition parties are permitted here, effective power rests with the Sandinistas. They dominate the council of state (parliament), control the army and police, and run an elaborate machinery for the protection of the revolution including popular militias and neighbourhood defence committees.

There appear to be no moves against the mixed economy — provided private enterprise stays out of politics.

Last year, according to official figures, 60 per cent of the foreign exchange allotted to industry went to the private sector, which also received 70 per cent of all credits. Private business accounts for more than three fourths of Nicaragua's gross domestic product.

"The Sandinistas looked around and saw what happened to countries which strangled the private sector," said a Western diplomat. "They don't want to make the same mistake, so private enterprise continues, what they don't want is for business leaders to have political power."

On non-alignment, the Sandinistas' record is rated poor. Nicaragua broke with the majority of

non-aligned nations when it failed to condemn the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The Sandinistas also followed the Soviet line on Poland.

West European support

The U.S. cites such attitudes as proof for its contention that Nicaragua is lost to international Communism. The majority of Washington's Western European allies disagree.

Last December, France infuriated the Reagan administration by signing an \$18 million contract with Nicaragua for helicopters, rocket launchers, air-to-ground missiles and two missile patrol boats.

In a further demonstration of the cordial ties between Nicaragua and France, Daniel Ortega, the head of the ruling directorate, visited Paris and was received by President Francois Mitterrand.

In September, Mr. Ortega is due to visit Bonn at the invitation of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, whose Social Democratic Party issued a statement in August urging Western Europe to try to persuade the U.S. to stop "trying to destabilise Nicaragua."

While there is no doubt that Nicaragua has drifted to the left in three years of Sandinista rule, it is a matter of conjecture how much further the process will go.

Asked recently to explain his vision of Nicaragua in the year 2000, Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal replied: "That's almost 20 years from now. I don't even know what things will be like in 20 months."

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